

Class Act

King County Solid Waste Division's School Recycling Program Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 1

Winter 1997

The Wiz Kids at Home Elementary School Waste Reduction/Recycling Program

King County's elementary school program continues to receive rave reviews from teachers, principals, and students. The program consists of a live assembly show, classroom workshops, resource materials, and support for Green Teams. Sixty elementary schools will participate in this year's program, the *Wiz Kids at Home*. The emphasis this year is on the whys and hows of sorting recyclables, choosing recycled products, packing waste free lunches, and cutting down on garbage. Wiz Kids René Alexander and Terence Kelley present the assembly and follow up with classroom

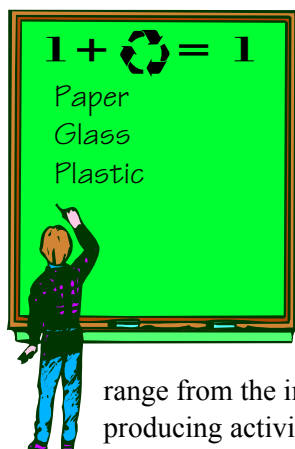


workshops. Workshops last about 35 minutes and teachers can select from nine different topics, including recycling, buying recycled products, identifying wasteful packaging, setting up a worm bin, and others. Any teacher who wants to start a Green Team that takes on classroom or schoolwide waste reduction and recycling activities can receive assistance, materials, and recognition for projects. Green Team members who complete projects can win certificates, recycled pencils, or water bottles made from recycled milk jugs.

Limited spaces are available for scheduling the program. For more information, or to get on the waiting list, contact Triangle Associates, at 583-0655.

Middle and High School Waste Reduction/Recycling Education

Free labs that incorporate waste reduction and recycling into the disciplines of science, social studies, math and language arts are offered to middle and high school classrooms. The 45-55 minute sessions are



interactive and provide plenty of hands-on opportunities. Five different topics that explore current trends and concerns in waste reduction and recycling are available to middle schools. Two of these topics have been specifically tailored to high schools. The topics

range from the impact of waste and waste producing activities on natural or political

systems to waste reduction at school and at home. Up to 30 students can be accommodated per session. For more information or to register, call the Pacific Science Center Waste Busters Program at 443-2851.

Tikli's Nose: A Story for Kindergartners and Preschoolers

Professional storyteller Kathie Vitz is available to present *Tikli's Nose*, a story about trolls and reducing waste, to groups of up to 50 kindergartners or preschoolers. This program, offered free of charge, has delighted thousands of children. It introduces them in a magical way to the concepts of recycling and reducing waste. After listening to the story, students then act it out, taking on roles of their choice. Teachers also receive a copy of the book to keep. To schedule this program for your class, contact Kathie Vitz at 789-0754.

Green Teams

Teachers who participate in either the elementary school program or Hazards on the Homefront can receive support for the efforts of their students to take on projects that reduce waste or educate others about waste reduction, recycling, or household hazardous waste. René Alexander, of Triangle Associates, is available to help teachers and students get projects started with materials, resources, or even classroom visits. Classes that complete projects are eligible for prizes ranging from certificates to water bottles made out of recycled milk jugs.

Veteran Green Team leader Julie Ginocchio from Southern Heights Elementary has been organizing a Green Team since the program started in 1992. Projects have included reducing and reusing materials in the classroom and selling “environmentally friendly” supplies at the school store, including pencils, paper, and other school supplies made from recycled materials. Other Green Teams lead school-wide challenges to reduce waste, organize Waste Free Lunch days, spot check and reward other classes for recycling correctly, and create art projects from reused materials. Projects range from easy steps such as creating a “reuse” box to the more elaborate steps of investigating how to reduce lunchroom garbage. This year the Green Team program has expanded to include household hazardous waste. If you’re interested in creating a Green Team, identifying project ideas, or getting recognition for the projects you are doing, contact René Alexander or Jennifer Howell at Triangle Associates, at 583-0655. Green Team projects are highlighted on KidStar radio, in the Green Gram newsletter, and in KidStar magazine.

Teacher Training on Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste education provides an opportunity to give students real life decision making skills, apply new state essential learnings, and have fun in the process! Teachers of grades 4-12 are invited to participate in a free day-long workshop (with substitute reimbursement) that will provide them with information to incorporate this subject into a program

that requires critical thinking, reading, and communication skills. Classroom materials to teach the lessons in the guide *Hazards on the Homefront* are provided as well as the opportunity for follow-up classroom assistance and mini-grants for completing projects. The next workshop will be offered on Saturday, January 25th in Seattle.

This fall, 42 teachers attended workshops in Seattle, Issaquah, and the Northshore School Districts. We are currently seeking locations and school districts for additional workshops. For more information, contact Jennifer Howell, Triangle Associates, at 583-0655.



Classroom Presentations on Household Hazardous Waste

Don’t have time for a workshop but interested in exposing your students to the issue of household hazardous waste? Gail Gensler will spend an hour with a class in grades 4-12 to teach students how to identify hazardous household products, why household hazardous waste is an environmental and health problem, and what they can do about it. A teacher packet, student handouts, and follow-up activities are provided. To sign up, contact Gail Gensler at 689-3082.

KidStar Radio

The King County Solid Waste Division sponsors “Talking Trash with Phil Dumpster” on KidStar Radio, 1250 AM. Phil Dumpster is KidStar’s talk show host that kids love to hate. Phil is wasteful and obnoxious and just doesn’t get it about taking care of the environment. His outrageously wasteful practices provoke and challenge kids to set Phil straight by coming up with reduction, reuse, and recycling alternatives to the trash can.

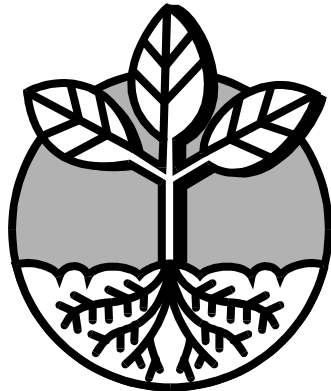
KidStar All-Stars get their chance to talk back to Phil Dumpster when they call the Talking Trash

PhoneZone line by leaving audio messages for the guru of garbage himself. Selected Phone Zone messages provide the content for future Talking Trash feature episodes. Additionally, All-Stars are provided with information on how they can become further involved in reduction, reuse and recycling efforts — everything from how to form their own Green Team to how to request a recycling checklist. In 1997, King County's Water and Land Resources Division will cosponsor the Phil Dumpster feature which means that Phil will expand his messages to include water issues such as stream/river/lake pollution and restoration, fish habitat, and drainage basins.

Parents can sign their children up to be KidStar All-Stars at no charge by calling the PhoneZone at 625-1250 and following the instructions.

Master Recycler Composters

Master Recycler Composters (MRCs) are volunteers trained by the County in waste reduction, recycling, and composting methods.



Once trained, MRCs provide outreach services to the community. Some of these volunteers have expressed an interest in working with classrooms or schools on projects. Teachers with

a project they would like assistance with can call Carol Lo at 343-8505 who will try to match them with an MRC volunteer.

Household Hazardous Wastemobile

The Wastemobile collects paints, pesticides, cleaners, solvents, adhesives, automotive products, and other hazardous products from the home. The Wastemobile spends two weeks at each location and is

open on Thursdays and Fridays from noon to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. King County residents can deliver hazardous wastes to the Wastemobile or to Seattle's South Transfer Station or by appointment through the Hazards Line to Seattle's North Haz Shed.

Residents are not charged to drop off materials at the Wastemobile. However, the service costs an average of \$65 each time a resident uses the facility. This cost is shared by all King County households through a surcharge on garbage and sewer bills. The cost underscores the importance of making waste prevention the County's top priority.



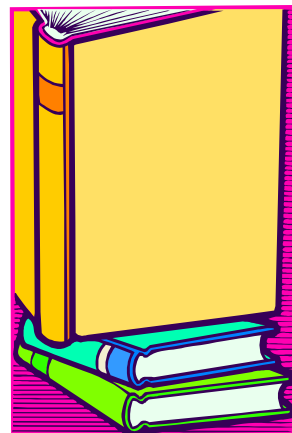
In January, the Wastemobile will be in the following communities:

Kirkland	January 2-11
Mercer Island	January 16-25
Issaquah	January 30- February 8

Call the Hazards Line at 296-4692 for more information.

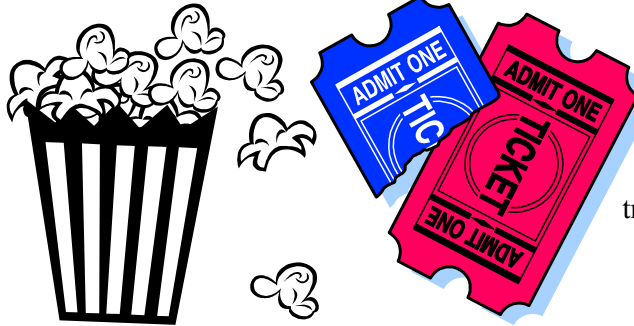
Bookcovers

The King County Solid Waste Division has distributed bookcovers to middle and high schools throughout the county. The bookcovers feature quotes on waste reduction and recycling from local bands such as Pearl Jam and Soundgarden. Schools needing additional bookcovers can contact Suzette Riley at 296-4352.



Hazards on the Homefront **Mini Grants and PRIZES**

Teachers who participate in the Hazards on the Homefront teacher training program are eligible to receive mini grants to support action projects. Grants may range from \$50 - \$200. To receive a grant, you must have participated in the program and your project must focus on household hazardous waste. Denise Baxter, a Pine Lake Middle School science teacher, received the first mini-grant to buy resources for her students to develop multi-media presentations on household hazardous waste that will be presented to the rest of the school and to parents.



Students and teachers who complete action projects are eligible to receive prizes contributed by local vendors. So far, we have received two \$50 gift certificates from Fred Meyer, coupons for cookies from a Bothell Subway shop, coupons for Mexi-Fries from Taco Time, and 10 movies passes from Cineplex Odeon. Prizes will be distributed to the best projects at the end of the school year. To be eligible for prizes, teachers or students must submit a project report.

For more information or an application for mini-grants, contact Triangle Associates at 583-0655 or address e-mail to trijen@aol.com.

News to Share?

If you have stories you want to share in future issues of the Class Act, send them to: Jennifer Howell, Triangle Associates, Inc., 811 First Ave #255, Seattle, WA 98104



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